

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Cleveland, Ohio

Profile of Drug Indicators

October 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Cleveland, Ohio

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population (2000 Census): 478,403
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 38.8% white; 50.5% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.3% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% other race; 1.7% two or more races; 7.3% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)
- County: Cuyahoga

Politics

- Mayor: Jane L. Campbell²
- Cleveland Department of Public Safety Director: James Draper³
- Cleveland Division of Police Chief: Edward Lohn⁴
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff: Gerald T. McFaul⁵

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁶
Designated in June 1999, the Ohio HIDTA is responsible for the following counties in northern Ohio: Cuyahoga (which includes Cleveland), Lucas, Mahoning, Stark, and Summit.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program⁷
Since the first grants were released as part of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program in FY 1998, no grantees in Cleveland have received funding through the program.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed⁸
There are currently no Weed and Seed sites in Cleveland.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Discretionary Funds awarded to Cleveland grantees:⁹
 - \$99,779 to the Cleveland State University for a family strengthening program. The project period was 9/30/2000-9/29/2002.
 - \$231,596 to the Case Western Reserve University to reduce the incidence of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS in African American youth in Cleveland. The project period was 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
 - \$437,447 to the Substance Abuse Initiative of Greater Cleveland to expand its services. The project period is 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
 - \$586,145 to Stella Maris, Inc. to expand and strengthen drug and alcohol treatment services for homeless individuals. The project period is 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 2001, there were 81 homicides known to the police in Cleveland.¹⁰

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Cleveland, 1997-2001

Offense	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Homicide	85	85	81	74	81
Rape	638	639	506	594	656
Robbery	3,837	3,311	3,038	3,072	3,348
Aggravated assault	2,692	2,575	2,429	2,851	2,434
Burglary	8,146	6,959	7,246	7,438	7,937
Theft	14,305	12,192	12,868	12,902	12,978
Auto theft	7,331	6,871	7,410	6,313	5,770
Total index offenses	3,7034	32,632	33,578	33,244	33,204

- Preliminary data for January to September 2001 indicate that approximately sixty-nine percent of adult male arrestees in Cleveland tested positive for illicit drugs at arrest.¹¹

Arrestee Positive Drug Results, Cleveland, Jan.-Sept. 2001

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	35.0%
Opiates	3.5
Marijuana	45.5
Methamphetamine	0.0
PCP	9.1
Any of above drugs	68.5
Multiple drugs	23.1

- More than half (51.2%) of adult male arrestees reported purchasing marijuana within the thirty days prior to being interviewed.¹²

Drug Acquisition in Past Thirty Days, Cleveland, January-September 2001

Drug Type	Number of Arrestees	Percent of Arrestees	Avg. # of Days Purchased in Past 30 Days
Crack	164	21.7%	13.2
Powder	42	5.7	5.9
Marijuana	376	51.2	10.7
Opiates	24	3.1	4.0
Methamphetamine	1	0.1	3.0

- Half of the adult male arrestees reported using marijuana in the past month, using an average of 10.4 days within the month.¹³

Arrestee Past Drug Use, Cleveland, January-September 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Opiates
Past 7 days	4.1%	1.4%	16.5%	0.1%
Past 30 days	18.8%	4.7%	50.0%	2.8%
Past year	21.5%	7.0%	55.2%	3.0%
Avg. # of days used in month	8.3	8.4	10.4	13.4

- From January to September 2000, seventy-two percent of adult male arrestees tested positive for drugs: thirty-seven percent were positive for cocaine; fifty-one percent were positive for marijuana; three percent were positive for opiates; and zero percent were positive for methamphetamine.¹⁴

Drugs

➤ Cocaine

Cocaine is the primary drug threat to the Ohio HIDTA region.¹⁵ There has been an increase in older crack cocaine users in the Cleveland area. A \$20 rock of crack is the most common selling size of the drug. Smoking continues to be the most common method of administration, but some injection drug users indicate that there is an increase in the number of people melting crack down and injecting it with vinegar or water. Powder cocaine is not as readily available in Cleveland as crack. A “bag” or quarter gram of powder cocaine costs \$20-\$25, and the price for a quarter ounce is approximately \$200. While snorting is the most common method of powder cocaine administration, some users have mentioned injecting the drug with heroin.¹⁶

➤ Heroin

The availability of heroin is increasing in Cleveland, and there is an emerging population of new, young users in the city. In the first quarter of FY 2002, the average purity of heroin found in Cleveland was seventy-two percent.¹⁷ Users have stated that there are differences in the types of heroin found on the East versus the West side of Cleveland. “China White” is more available on the East side, while “Mexican Brown” is more available on the West side. Heroin costs between \$10-\$20 a bag or dose and an eight ball (1/8th of a gram) can be bought for approximately \$80-\$90. While Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network participants discussed various methods of heroin administration (smoking and snorting), the most common method among those in Cleveland is injecting.¹⁸

➤ Marijuana

The cost of marijuana in Cleveland varies greatly from \$1-\$2 a joint or \$35-\$350 an ounce depending on the quality. Some Cleveland treatment counselors have mentioned that clients are using marijuana to “mellow” after using other drugs or combinations of drugs.¹⁹

➤ Methamphetamine

In northern Ohio, the beginning stages of a methamphetamine problem have been reported.²⁰ Despite this, methamphetamine does not yet seem to be a very popular drug in the Cleveland area.²¹

- **Other Drugs**
OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin, and Dilaudid are growing in popularity in the Cleveland area. OxyContin typically sells for \$1 per milligram and the pills are usually chewed or crushed, dissolved, and then injected.²²

Juveniles

- During 1999, approximately sixty percent of juvenile male detainees in Cleveland tested positive for marijuana.²³

Percent of Juvenile Male Detainees Testing Positive for Drugs, Cleveland, 1999

Offense	N	Cocaine	Marijuana	PCP	Any Drug
Violent	111	4.5%	40.5%	4.5%	44.1%
Property	107	8.4	67.3	7.5	68.2
Drug	85	16.5	81.2	14.1	83.5
Sales	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
Possession	84	16.7	81.0	14.3	83.3
Other	30	6.7	46.7	0.0	46.7
All others	20	5.0	45.0	0.0	45.0
Total	313	9.3	59.7	6.4	62.0

Enforcement

- Ohio HIDTA initiatives include the following:²⁴
 - Northeast Ohio Interdiction Task Force: Members of this task force work to reduce drug trafficking, related violent crimes, and money laundering in the Ohio HIDTA counties.
 - Caribbean/Gang Drug Task Force: This multi-agency cooperative effort is designed to undermine the impact of organized drug trafficking activity.
 - Investigative Support Center: Members of this initiative collect, analyze, and broker information in support of the Ohio HIDTA's investigative initiatives.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 2,446 full-time law enforcement employees working in Cleveland.²⁵

Trafficking and Seizures

- Ohio's well-developed network of highways connects Cleveland to other major cities, facilitating the transportation of drugs to markets within and outside the area.²⁶
- Wholesale distributors use major Ohio cities like Cleveland as distribution centers for smaller cities in Ohio and other states.²⁷
- The most significant drug trafficking operations in the northern Ohio area consist of Jamaican and Hispanic traffickers.²⁸
- The number of methamphetamine lab seizures in the Cleveland area more than doubled from 2000 to 2001.²⁹
- In December 2001, the Northeast Ohio Parcel Interdiction Team seized more than eleven quarts of PCP that were being shipped from Los Angeles to a criminal group operating in Cleveland. The PCP was going to be distributed within the state.³⁰

Courts

- As of January 17, 2002, there were two drug courts in operation in Cleveland and no drug courts being planned.³¹

Consequences of Use

- During 2000, there were 143 drug abuse deaths reported by medical examiners (ME) in the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County area. Cocaine was mentioned in sixty-six of the drug deaths.³²

Number of ME Drug Mentions, Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, 1997-2000

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	45	38	31	56
Cocaine	36	46	53	66
Heroin/morphine	45	30	26	48
Marijuana	6	2	1	2
Amphetamines	--	--	--	--
Methamphetamine	--	1	1	1
Club drugs	--	--	2	--
Hallucinogens	--	--	2	--
Inhalants	--	--	--	1
Narcotic analgesics	44	37	34	63
Other analgesics	6	8	7	4
Benzodiazepines	19	20	17	22
Antidepressants	25	23	19	22
All other substances	30	26	25	32
Total drug deaths	112	108	117	143
Total drug mentions	256	231	218	317

- Seventy-two of the drug deaths in Cleveland/Cuyahoga County involved individuals between the ages of 45 and 97.³³

Treatment

- Treatment providers in Cleveland indicate that they have been seeing more users mandated to treatment through the legal system for using club drugs.³⁴
- A lack of available slots in treatment (both residential and outpatient/aftercare) has been mentioned by Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring Network participants in Cleveland.³⁵

Sources

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- ¹³ Ibid.
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- ²² Ibid.
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³⁵ Ibid.

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